CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTED CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

Newspapers as indicated.

FLOODS AND FORCED CROP COLLECTION CAUSE WIDESPREAD DISTRESS IN SOUTH CHINA

The Hong Kong Hsing-tao Jih-pao (independent) reports a number of disaster items in southeast China. In Fukien ters of thousands of mou fone mou equals 1/6 acre7 were inundated and thousands of persons drowned in floods that stood as deep as 30 feet on the level. The floods were most disastrous in the area around Foochow. The paper alleges callousness on the part of authorities to the sufferings of the people. An earlier report in the Fukien Jih-pao corroborates that the devastation was serious.

Over-zealous and forced collection of tax grain in parts of Kwang-tung Province are blamed for a situation bordering on famine in several areas of the province. Conditions in the Chin-chiang area are reported by the Chung-lien She (pro-KMT) to be worst in 50 years due to monopoly of supplies by the agricultural associations and monopoly of transport facilities by the Coastal Defense Command.

DEVASTATING FLOODS IN FUKIEN -- Hong Kong, Hsing-tao Jih-pao, 14 Aug 52

Floods in Fukien Province exceeding in extent and devastation anything reported during the last decade have brought death and destruction to large areas. The Min Ho rose 8.18 meters, 1.6 meters above the danger stage. Water stood from 15 to 25 feet deep in the suburbs of Foochow: in other places water stood 30 feet deep on the level. Along the rivers most endless wastes of water existed on both sides of the streams. Such conditions were prevalent in many parts of the province.

The conditions were worse in the ten halen immediately surrounding Foochow. Greatest losses were suffered by those who had not yet harvested the early rice, or who had just planted late rice. In and around Foochow the flood rose suddenly in the early hours of the morning making it impossible for the people to save any of their goods. Thousands were drowned. In the Foochow suburbs 80,000 mou of rice land were inundated damaging over 60 percent of the crop.

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The authorities seized all transport facilities for the execuation of official equipment and the people could find no transport until several days later after the official requirements had been met. The official aid extended then was already too late. One billion yuan in relief funds were issued, but proved very inadequate where 10 million people were destitute. The people were urged to help themselves through production.

A search of the Chinese mainland newspapers revealed a story in the Foochow Fukien Jih-pao of 22 July that tended to corroborate the above account with substantial detail. Although no figures were given for depth of water on the level, there was clear indication of widespread inundation.

SUMMER GRAIN LEVIES LEAVE PEASANTS SHORT -- Hong Kong, Hsing-tao Jih-pao, 15 Aug 52

According to correspondence from Canton a number of serious difficulties have arisen in connection with the summer grain collection activity in Kwangtung Province. It is reported that many cadres, in their zeal to make an early report, started the collection before the crops were ready and then used force to make the farmers bring in the grain. After the tax and repayments on loans had been collected the farmers have not enough food left to carry them even one month.

Since it is required that all tax grain has to be brought to Canton, there are many losses enroute, some occasioned by the sinking of grain ships.

PEASANTS SUPPLIES DEPLETE BY TAX COLLECTORS -- Hong Kong, Hsing-tao Jih-pao, 17 Aug 52

Correspondence from Hsi-chiang indicated that in that area of Kwangtung there is a serious rice shortage caused by the fact that the summer tax collectors took all the grain the farmers had. The shortage is reported as more serious than that in the spring.

CHIN-CHIANG AREA AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS BAD -- Hong Kong, Hsir, tao Jih-pao 15 Aug 52

According to reports of the Chung-lien She, agricultural operations in the Chin-chiang area of Kwangtung have been in a slump since land reform. Conditions are reported to be the worst in 50 years. Chin-chiang is a rice-short area dependent in large part on imports from other areas. Transport and supplies have been cut off by the requirements of the coastal defense forces. Furthermore, the agricultural associations monopolize exchange. Hence conditions are worse than under the Japanese military occupation.

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